

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
Richmond Division

In re:

\*

CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC., et al.,

\*

Case No: 08-35653-KRH  
Chapter 11

Debtors,

\*

\* \* \* \* \*

**CLAIMANT MARLON MONDRAGON'S MOTION FOR  
RECONSIDERATION AND TO PERMIT THE FILING OF A CLASS  
PROOF OF CLAIM WITH SUPPORTING MEMORANDUM**

Claimant Marlon Mondragon ("Claimant" or "Movant"), by and through his undersigned attorneys, and pursuant to Rules, 9024, 7023 and 9014 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, files this Motion seeking entry of an order for reconsideration of the August 20, 2009 Order disallowing Movant's claim and, upon reconsideration, allowing Movant's claim. The grounds for the Motion are as follows:

1. The Court has jurisdiction over the Motion under 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334.
2. Venue in this Court is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.
3. The statutory predicates for the relief sought herein are, *inter alia*, §§ 105, 361 and 362(d)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, and Bankruptcy Rules 4001 and 9014.

**Parties**

4. On November 10, 2008 (the "Petition Date"), the Debtor and related entities (collectively, the ("Debtor")) filed Petitions under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.

5. The Debtor is in possession of its assets and is acting as a “debtor-in-possession” under 11 U.S.C. § 1107.

6. The Movant was an employee of Circuit City at its retail outlet located in the Palisades Mall, West Nyack, New York. Other members of the Class he seeks to represent were also employed by Circuit City at one of the facilities closed by Circuit City in or about after November 2, 2008, resulting in a mass layoff of said employees. The Movant seeks to be the class representative of a putative class of former employees of the Debtor who worked at closed facilities with more than 50 employees.

### **The Litigation**

7. Plaintiff brings this action on his own behalf and, pursuant to Rules 23 (a) and (b) (3) of the Fed. R. Civ. P. and the WARN Act, 29 U.S.C. § 2104 (a) (5), on behalf of a Class consisting of himself and all other non-union employees of Circuit City who were terminated by Circuit City on various dates on and after November 2, 2008.

8. Plaintiff and such other class members were managers, assistant managers and other employees at one of Circuit City’s approximately 150 stores (the “Stores” or “Stores and Related Facilities”), until their termination approximately on and/or after November 2, 2008 without cause on his or her part and are each “affected employees” within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. 52101(a)(5).

9. Mondragon timely filed a proof of claim for post-petition, unpaid compensation and/or damages as required by the Workers Adjustment and Notification Act, 29 U.S.C. 2102 *et seq.* (the “WARN Act”). The WARN Act Claimants believe the claim to be a post-petition claim and/or pre-petition priority wage claim.

10. The WARN Act requires that employers provide employees adequate

notice of mass layoffs and store closings or adequate remuneration in lieu thereof. it is submitted that Defendant Circuit City Stores, Inc. ("Circuit City") failed to provide notice or compensation as required by the Workers Adjustment and Notification Act, 29 U.S.C. 2102 *et seq.* (the "WARN Act"), when it implemented mass layoffs and store closings, post-petition and/or for pre-petition wages.

11. In this action Defendant terminated Plaintiff and the members of the putative class *after* it filed its bankruptcy petition, failing to give either adequate notice of termination or adequate remuneration in lieu thereof. Accordingly, the Plaintiff's WARN Act claim vested upon termination when the employer failed to provided proper notice or pay the required wages in lieu thereof. The Plaintiff seeks to vindicate his rights, and those of the members of the class he seeks to represent, under the WARN Act.

12. At all times relevant, Circuit City, had more than 100 full-time employees within the United States.

13. Upon and information and belief, at the time of closure, the Circuit City retail outlet located in the Palisades Mall, West Nyack, New York had 50 or more employees.

14. Upon and information and belief, at the time of closure, the Circuit City retail outlet located in the Hialeah, Florida had 50 or more employees.

15. Upon and information and belief, at the time of closure, the Circuit City retail outlet located in the Jackson, Michigan had 50 or more employees.

16. Upon and information and belief, at the time of closure, the Circuit City retail outlet located in or about Atlanta, Georgia (store 03222) had 50 or more employees.

17. Upon and information and belief, at the time of closure, the Circuit City retail outlet located in the Memphis, Tennessee (store 0871) had 50 or more employees.

18. Upon and information and belief, at the time of closure, the Circuit City retail outlet located in the Sparks, Nevada had 50 or more employees.

19. Upon and information and belief, at the time of closure, the Circuit City retail outlet located in the Toledo, Ohio had 50 or more employees.

20. Upon and information and belief, at the time of closure, Circuit City's corporate headquarters located in Richmond, Virginia had 50 or more employees.

21. Upon and information and belief, at the time of closure, Circuit City had numerous additional locations with 50 or more employees.

22. Plaintiff and the other members of the Class were non-union employees of Circuit City.

23. Plaintiff and the Class were discharged without cause.

24. Plaintiff and the Class did not receive from Circuit City prior to their termination the statutorily required sixty (60) days notice of the mass lay off or termination in violation of the WARN Act.

25. Circuit City was required by the WARN Act to provide Plaintiff and the Class at least 60 days prior written notice of their termination or to give each of them a written statement as soon as practicable explaining why a notice of their termination had not been given at least 60 days before their termination.

26. Circuit City failed to give Plaintiff and the other Class members prior written notice, as required by the WARN Act, stating: (a) whether the planned action of Circuit City was expected to be permanent or temporary, and, if an entire Store or facility

was to be closed, a statement to that effect; (b) the expected date when the mass layoff would commence and the expected date when each plaintiff would be separated; (c) an indication whether or not bumping rights exist; and (d) the name and telephone number of a Circuit City official to contact for further information.

27. Circuit City failed to give, as soon as practicable to Plaintiff and the other Class members, a statement explaining why Circuit City failed to give at least 60 days prior notice, as required by the WARN Act.

28. Circuit City failed to pay Plaintiff and the other members of the Class their respective wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, accrued holiday pay and accrued vacation for sixty (60) work days following their respective terminations and failed to make the pension and 401(k) contributions and provide the health insurance coverage and other employee benefits under ERISA in respect to them for sixty (60) calendar days from and after the dates of their respective terminations.

29. The proposed Class is comprised of employees of Circuit City who were terminated by Circuit City as a result of the mass layoff put into effect by Circuit City in or about after November 2, 2008.

30. The Debtor filed a Motion for Order Pursuant to Bankruptcy Code Sections 105(a), 363, 507(a), 541, 1107(a) and 1108 and Bankruptcy Rule 6003 Authorizing Debtors to Pay Prepetition Wages, Compensation and Employee Benefits (the "Motion").

31. By and Order entered on November 10, 2008, the Bankruptcy Court granted the Debtor's Motion authorizing the Debtors to pay various prepetition wages compensation and employee benefits on a final basis when such payments became due,

other than the WARN Act payments to terminated employees in the estimated amount of \$8 to \$10 million. The WARN Act payments were approved on an interim basis, subject to further objection.

32. On November 26, 2008, the Official Committee of Creditors Holding Unsecured Claims (the “Committee”) objected to payment of any alleged WARN Act claims, contending that “[s]uch payments are premature and not appropriate at this early juncture of the case when the Debtors liquidity and prospects for reorganization are being examined and funds are critically needed for ongoing operations and restructuring efforts.”

33. Upon information and belief, Debtors have not made any payments to WARN Employees.

**The Within Motion is Timely**

34. Movant timely filed a proof of claim on January 30, 2009, which was designated Claim No. 8381. (A copy of the Movant’s Proof of Claim is annexed hereto as Exhibit A).

35. The Movant at all relevant times sought to pursue his claim as a class action. The Movant, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, filed a Class Action Adversary Proceeding Complaint, on March 17, 2009. A Second Amended Class Action Adversary Proceeding Complaint was filed on July 8, 2009.

36. On October 8, 2009, the Court entered an Order disallowing Mondragon’s claim for wages and compensation (“Order on Thirtieth Omnibus Objection”). *See* Order on Debtors’ Thirtieth Omnibus Objection To Claims (Disallowance of Certain Claims For Wages and Compensation). At the time, Mondragon had his Adversary Proceeding

Complaint pending. In addition, the perfunctory argument of the Debtor objecting to Mondragon's claim did not actually address or raise the issue of WARN Act pay and simply stated:

"The Debtors have reviewed and analyzed the claims, the accompanying documentation and their books and records do not show any current or outstanding liability owing to the former employees asserting the claims. The claims have either been paid or the asserted liabilities are invalid. There is currently no outstanding payroll or other obligation owing to former employees asserting the claims on Exhibit C." (See Paragraph 13 of "Debtors Thirteenth Omnibus Objection to Claims") dated August 20, 2009.

No mention of the WARN Act claims or the Complaint of Mr. Mondragon were even mentioned by the Debtor's counsel despite the fact they were well aware of the claim. In addition, it is unclear if the sole basis for the objection was the fact that the claim was listed as a "Priority" claim on the schedule shown. Mr. Mondragon did not submit any papers opposing the Thirtieth Omnibus Objection at the time, as he had an Adversary Proceeding pending.

37. Thereafter, the Debtor moved to dismiss the Amended Adversary Proceeding on August 24, 2009.

38. On January 7, 2010, the Court granted Debtor's motion to dismiss the Adversary Proceeding stating that:

[T]he Plaintiff's claim should properly be administered through the bankruptcy claims resolution procedure and should not go forward as an adversary proceeding. Accordingly, the adversary proceeding commenced by Plaintiff will be dismissed; however, *Plaintiff will be permitted to pursue his claim under part three of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure.*

Court Order (emphasis added).

39. The order of dismissal specifically permitted the Movant “to pursue his claim under part three of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure” (Order at p. 2), which necessitates the reconsideration and allowance of Movant’s claim.

40. Circuit City will not suffer any prejudice if the Movant is allowed to file a class claim. A copy of the [Proposed] Class Proof of Claim, which claimant would file if authorized by the Court, is annexed hereto as Exhibit “A.”

### **The Standard**

41. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that reconsideration be granted of the Order on Thirtieth Omnibus Objections which granted the objection to Mondragon’s claim. Motions for reconsideration of interlocutory orders are “not subject to the strict standards applicable to motions for reconsideration of a final judgment,” but are instead committed to the discretion of the court.” *Am. Canoe Ass’n. v. Murphy Farms, Inc.*, 326 F.3d 505, 514-515 (4th Cir. 2003) (citing 12 Moore’s Federal Practice § 60.23) (“Rule 60(b) does not govern relief from interlocutory orders....”). The strict standards of Rule 60(b) are not applicable because a district court retains the power to reconsider and modify its interlocutory judgments at any time prior to final judgment when such is warranted. *See Fayetteville Investors v. Commercial Builders, Inc.*, 936 F.2d 1462, 1469 (4th Cir.1991) (“An interlocutory order is subject to reconsideration at any time prior to the entry of a final judgment.”).

42. The power to reconsider is committed to the discretion of the district court, *see Moses H. Cone Mem. Hosp. v. Mercury Const. Corp.*, 460 U.S. 1, 12, 103 S.Ct. 927, 74 L.Ed.2d 765 (1983) (noting that “every order short of a final decree is subject to



reopening at the discretion of the district judge”), and doctrines such as law of the case, which is what the district court apparently relied on in this case, have evolved as a means of guiding that discretion, *see Sejman v. Warner-Lambert Co., Inc.*, 845 F.2d 66, 69 (4th Cir.1988) (noting that earlier decisions of a court become law of the case and must be followed unless “(1) a subsequent trial produces substantially different evidence, (2) controlling authority has since made a contrary decision of law applicable to the issue, or (3) the prior decision was clearly erroneous and would work manifest injustice.” (internal quotation marks omitted)). *American Canoe Ass’n v. Murphy Farms, Inc.* 326 F.3d 505, 514 -515 (4<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2003).

43. In exercise of its inherent equitable powers, bankruptcy court has authority to modify or vacate its own interlocutory orders. *A&A A Sign Co. v Maughan*, 419 F.2d 1152 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1969).

#### **Relief Requested**

44. Movant seeks the entry of an order, consistent with the Court’s January 7, 2010 Order expressly permitting Mondragon to pursue his claim under part three of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, to reconsider the August 20, 2009 Order disallowing Mondragon’s claim and upon reconsideration, allowing Mondragon’s Class claim. When considering this issue, Courts routinely permit a class of plaintiffs to file a single proof of claim. *See, e.g., Collier on Bankruptcy*, § 10-7023 (15<sup>th</sup> Edition) (summarizing cases and stating that “the prevailing view” is for the allowance of class claims). Courts have regularly held that the WARN Act is “particularly amenable to class litigation.” *Finnan v. L.F. Rothschild & Co.*, 726 F. Supp. 460, 465 (S.D.N.Y. 1989); *see also Grimmer v. Lord, Day & Lord*, 1996 WL 139649 (S.D.N.Y., Mar. 8

1966 )("[T]he WARN Act provisions lend themselves to class action because they provide for limited recovery."); *New Orleans and Checkers Union Local 1497 v. Ryan-Walsh, Inc.*, 1994 WL 72191, 9 IER Cases 391 (E.D. La 1994)("the instant proceeding, a WARN action, falls squarely within the criteria for sanctioning a class."); *accord, In re Spring Ford Industries, Inc.*, 2004 Bankr. LEXIS 112 (Bankr. E.D. Pa. 2004) ("overwhelming majority view that [class proof of claims] are permissible in bankruptcy case"); *In re American Reserve Corp.*, 840 F.2d 487, 493 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir.1988) ("It follows that there may be class proofs of claims in bankruptcy."); *In re First Interregional Equity Corp.*, 227 B.R. 358, 366 (Bankr.D.N.J.1998) (class certified); *In re Chateaugay Corp.*, 104 B.R. 626, 629 (S.D.N.Y.1989) (individual may file proof of claim in Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceeding on behalf of a class persons who have not filed individual proofs of claim).

45. The Class claim was not applicable until after the Court's ruling on the Motion to Dismiss in the adversary proceeding.

46. Movant has a proper claim pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 502 for Allowance of the individual and class claims, or interests with regard to seeking WARN Act pay.

47. The process of determining allowance of claims is of basic importance to administration of the bankruptcy estate. *In re Towner Petroleum Co.*, 48 B.R. 182 (W.D. O.K. 1985). In the exercise of its equitable jurisdiction, the bankruptcy court has the power to sift the circumstances surrounding any claim to see that injustice or unfairness is not done in administration of the bankrupt estate, and its duty so to do is especially clear when the claim seeking allowance accrues to the benefit of an officer, director or

stockholder of a bankrupt corporation. *Pepper v. Litton*, 60 S.Ct. 238, 308 U.S. 295, 84

L.Ed. 281 (1939); *see, also, Goldie v. Cox*, 130 F.2d 695 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1942).

48. The expressly-granted power to allow, disallow, and reconsider claims is of basic importance in administration of bankruptcy estate. *Katchen v. Landy*, 86 S.Ct. 467, 382 U.S. 323, 15 L.Ed.2d 391 (1966).

WHEREFORE, the Movant requests an Order:

- (a) Reconsidering the August 20, 2009 Order on Thirtieth Omnibus Objections disallowing Movant's claim;
- (b) Upon reconsideration, allowing Movant's claim as a class claim; and
- (b) Granting such other relief as this Court deems just proper.

Dated: April 21, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

BUSMAN & BUSMAN, P.C.

/s/ Marc A. Busman

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2010, a copy of the foregoing Motion was filed and served via the Court's Electronic Case Filing System on all parties receiving such notice.

/s/ Marc A. Busman

Counsel

# EXHIBIT A

**Penalty for presenting fraudulent claim:** Fine of up to \$500,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152 and 3571.

## **ADDENDUM TO [PROPOSED] CLASS PROOF OF CLAIM**

Note to Section No. 1 & 2: The Wage Claim is made for WARN Act Notice for the last 60 days prior to severance of employment of claimant and the Class which is comprised of those similarly situated former employees who, like claimant, were entitled to Warn Act Notice.

Note to Section No. 4: The Claimant believes there are at least 8 locations which had 50 or more employees, as listed in the Second Amended Class Action Adversary Complaint Supplemented with more Definite Statement, a copy of which is annexed hereto as Exhibit "1." Thus, approximately 400 former employees exist with wage claims of on average approximately \$5000, upon which a claim is made herein.

Note to Section No. 5: Claimant asserts an unsecured nonpriority claim in the alternative to the Priority Wage Claim asserted herein.

# EXHIBIT 1 TO ADDENDUM—

Copy of Second Amended Class  
Action Adversary Proceeding,  
Filed July 8, 2009



**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
(Richmond Division)**

----- X  
In re:

**CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC.,  
et al.**

**Debtors**  
-----

**MARLON MONDRAGON, on behalf of  
himself and all others similarly situated,**

**Plaintiffs,**

**-against-**

**Circuit City Stores, Inc., et al.,**

**Defendant.**  
----- X

**In Proceedings For Reorganization  
Under Chapter 11**

**Case No. 08-35653-KRH**

**Jointly Administered**

**Adv. Proc. No.: 09-03073 KRH**

**SECOND AMENDED CLASS  
ACTION ADVERSARY  
COMPLAINT SUPPLEMENTED  
WITH MORE DEFINITE  
STATEMENT**

Plaintiff, Marlon Mondragon ("Plaintiff"), on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, by and through his undersigned counsel, as and for his Complaint against Circuit City Stores, Inc., et al ("Circuit City"), respectfully alleges as follows:

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

1. This Court has jurisdiction over this adversary proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157, 1331 and 1334 and 1337.
2. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(A), (B) and (O).

3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1409(a).

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4. The named Plaintiff and the other members of the Class he seeks to represent were employees of Circuit City who were terminated without cause as part of or as a result of, mass layoffs at Circuit City's retail locations. Circuit City violated the Worker Adjustment and Notification Act, 29 U.S.C. §§2101 et seq. (the WARN Act) by failing to give Plaintiff and the other members of the Class he seeks to represent at least 60 days prior notice of termination as required by the WARN Act or a notice as soon as practicable explaining why at least 60 days prior notice was not given. As a consequence, Plaintiff and the other members of the Class he seeks to represent are entitled to recover of Circuit City under the WARN Act their wages and other employee benefits for 60 days following their termination, which wages and benefits have not been paid.

#### **PARTIES**

5. Defendant Circuit City ("Debtor") is a corporation with its principal place of business in Richmond, Virginia, which, and on or about November 20, 2008 filed with this Court a voluntary petition for relief under Chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Act"). The Debtors also include Circuit City Stores, Inc., Circuit City Stores West Coast, Inc., InterTan, Inc., Ventoux International, Inc., Circuit City Purchasing Company, LLC, CC Aviation, LLC, CC Distribution Company of Virginia, Inc., Circuit City Properties, LLC, Kinzer Technology, LLC, Abbott Advertising Agency, Inc., Patapsco Designs, Inc., Sky Venture Corp, Prahs, Inc., XSStuff, LLC, Mayland MN, LLC, Courchevel, LLC, Orbyx Electronics, LLC, and Circuit City Stores PR, LLC. The address for Circuit City Stores West Coast, Inc. is

9250 Sheridan Boulevard, Westminster, Colorado 80031. For all other Debtors, the address is 9950 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23233.

6. Plaintiff was an employee of Circuit City at its retail outlet located in the Palisades Mall, West Nyack, New York. Other members of the Class he seeks to represent were also employed by Circuit City at one of the facilities closed by Circuit City in or about after November 2, 2008, resulting in a mass layoff of said employees.

#### **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

7. Plaintiff brings this action on his own behalf and, pursuant to Rules 23 (a) and (b) (3) of the Fed. R. Civ. P. and the WARN Act, 29 U.S.C. §2104 (a) (5), on behalf of a Class consisting of himself and all other non-union employees of Circuit City who were terminated by Circuit City on various dates on and after November 2, 2008.

8. Plaintiff and such other class members were managers, assistant managers and other employees at one of Circuit City's approximately 150 stores (the "Stores" or "Stores and Related Facilities"), until their termination approximately on and/or after November 2, 2008 without cause on his or her part and are each affected employees within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. 52101(a)(5).

9. At all times relevant, Circuit City, had more than 100 full-time employees within the United States.

10. Upon and information and belief, at the time of closure, the Circuit City retail outlet located in the Palisades Mall, West Nyack, New York had 50 or more employees.

11. Upon and information and belief, at the time of closure, the Circuit City retail outlet located in the Hialeah, Florida had 50 or more employees.

12. Upon and information and belief, at the time of closure, the Circuit City retail outlet located in the Jackson, Michigan had 50 or more employees.
13. Upon and information and belief, at the time of closure, the Circuit City retail outlet located in or about Atlanta, Georgia (store 03222) had 50 or more employees.
14. Upon and information and belief, at the time of closure, the Circuit City retail outlet located in the Memphis, Tennessee (store 0871) had 50 or more employees.
15. Upon and information and belief, at the time of closure, the Circuit City retail outlet located in the Sparks, Nevada had 50 or more employees.
16. Upon and information and belief, at the time of closure, Circuit City's corporate headquarters located in Richmond, Virginia had 50 or more employees.
17. Upon and information and belief, at the time of closure, Circuit City had numerous additional locations with 50 or more employees.
18. Plaintiff and the other members of the Class were non-union employees of Circuit City.
19. Plaintiff and the Class were discharged without cause.
20. Plaintiff and the Class did not receive from Circuit City prior to their termination the statutorily required sixty (60) days notice of the mass lay off or termination in violation of the WARN Act.
21. Circuit City was required by the WARN Act to provide Plaintiff and the Class at least 60 days prior written notice of their termination or to give each of them a written statement as soon as practicable explaining why a notice of their termination had not been given at least 60 days before their termination.

22. Circuit City failed to give Plaintiff and the other Class members prior written notice, as required by the WARN Act, stating: (a) whether the planned action of Circuit City was expected to be permanent or temporary, and, if an entire Store or facility was to be closed, a statement to that effect; (b) the expected date when the mass layoff would commence and the expected date when each plaintiff would be separated; (c) an indication whether or not bumping rights exist; and (d) the name and telephone number of a Circuit City official to contact for further information.

23. Circuit City failed to give as soon as practicable to Plaintiff and the other Class members a statement explaining why Circuit City failed to give at least 60 days prior notice, as required by the WARN Act.

24. Circuit City failed to pay Plaintiff and the other members of the Class their respective wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, accrued holiday pay and accrued vacation for sixty (60) work days following their respective terminations and failed to make the pension and 401(k) contributions and provide the health insurance coverage and other employee benefits under ERISA in respect to them for sixty (60) calendar days from and after the dates of their respective terminations. The 60 day period includes the post-petition period and the claim herein, to that extent, is a post-petition claim entitled to post-petition priority.

25. The Class is comprised of employees of Circuit City who were terminated by Circuit City as a result of the mass layoff put into effect by Circuit City in or about after November 2, 2008.

26. The Debtors filed a Motion for Order Pursuant to Bankruptcy Code Sections 105(a), 363, 507(a), 541, 1107(a) and 1108 and Bankruptcy Rule 6003 Authorizing Debtors to Pay

Prepetition Wages, Compensation and Employee Benefits (the "Motion").

27. By an Order entered on November 10, 2008, the Bankruptcy Court granted the Debtors' Motion authorizing the Debtors to pay various prepetition wages compensation and employee benefits on a final basis when such payments became due, other than the WARN Act payments to terminated employees in the estimated amount of \$8 to \$10 million. The WARN Act payments were approved on an interim basis, subject to further objection.

28. On November 26, 2008, the Official Committee of Creditors Holding Unsecured Claims (the "Committee") objected to payment of any alleged WARN Act claims, contending that "[s]uch payments are premature and not appropriate at this early juncture of the case when the Debtors liquidity and prospects for reorganization are being examined and funds are critically needed for ongoing operations and restructuring efforts." On or about December 6, 2008, the Court authorized (but did not require) WARN ACT pay to Plaintiff and the Class members to the extent they were entitled to WARN ACT pay.

29. Upon information and belief, Debtors have not made any payments to WARN Employees.

**CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS - RULE 7023(a) AND (b)**

30. The Plaintiff asserts this claim on behalf of himself and other similarly situated former employees pursuant to Rules 7023(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy and Rules 23(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

31. The Plaintiff and other similarly situated former employees constitute a class within the meaning of Rules 7023(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy and Rules 23(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

32. Common questions of law and fact are applicable to all members of the Class.

33. The common questions of law and fact arise from and concern the following facts and actions, among others, that Circuit City committed or failed to commit as to all members of the Class: all Class members enjoyed the protection of the WARN Act; all Class members were non-union employees of Circuit City; Circuit City terminated the employment of all the members of the Class without cause; Circuit City terminated the employment of the members of the Class without giving them at least 60 days prior written notice as required by the WARN Act; Circuit City failed to provide as soon as practicable a statement to the members of the Class why at least 60 days prior notice under the WARN Act was not given to them; and Circuit City failed to pay the Class members their respective wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, accrued holiday pay and accrued vacation pay and failed to provide them with health insurance coverage, and other employee benefits under ERISA for sixty (60) calendar days from and after the dates of their respective terminations.

34. The Class meets the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. Proc., Rule 23(a) as there are common questions of law and fact, as set forth herein, which predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, and a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

35. The persons in the Class identified above are so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Although the precise number of such persons is unknown, and all facts on which the calculation of that number can be based are presently within the sole control of Circuit City, there are in excess of 200 persons who are included in the Class.

36. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class we represent.

37. The Class has retained competent counsel, experienced in complex class action

employment litigation, and bankruptcy law.

38. The Class meets all the requirements for class certification, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(c)(3).

39. Class certification is also authorized by the WARN Act, 29 U.S.C. §2104 (a) (5).

40. No litigation concerning the WARN Act rights of any Class member has been commenced.

41. Concentrating all the potential litigation concerning the WARN Act rights of the Class members in this Court will avoid a multiplicity of suits, will conserve judicial resources and the resources of the parties and is the most efficient means of resolving the WARN Act rights of all the Class members. It would be impractical to require each Class member to litigate or seek adjudication of their individual WARN ACT Claim with Defendant and Defendants counsel, and the only practical manner in which such claims can be litigated is as a Class Action before this Court.

42. On information and belief, the identities of the Class members are contained in the books and records of Defendant.

43. On information and belief, a recent residence address of each of the Class Members is contained in the books and records of Defendant.

44. On information and belief, the rate of pay and benefits that were being paid by Defendant to each Class member at the time of his/her termination are contained in the books and records of the Defendant.

#### **THE CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

45. At all relevant times, the Defendant employed 100 or more employees (exclusive



of part-time employees, i.e., those employees who had worked fewer than 6 of the 12 months prior to the date notice was required to be given or who had worked fewer than an average of 20 hours per week during the 90 day period prior to the date notice was required to be given (the "Part-Time Employees")), or employed 100 or more employees who in the aggregate worked at least 4,000 hours per week exclusive of hours of overtime within the United States.

46. At all relevant times, Defendant was an "employer," as that term is defined in 29 U.S.C. § 2101(a)(1) and 20 C.F.R. § 639(a) and continued to operate as a business until it determined to order a mass layoff closing at the Stores and related Facilities.

47. On or about November 2, 2008 the Defendant ordered a "mass layoff" or "plant closing" at the Stores and Related Facilities, as the term is defined by 29 U.S.C. §2101(a)(3) and as alleged in ¶¶'s 10 through 17.

48. The mass layoff resulted in "employment losses", as that term is defined by 29 U.S.C. § 2101(a)(3) for at least fifty (50) of Defendant's employees, excluding "part-time employees," as that term is defined by 29 U.S.C. § 2101(a)(8), as well as 33% of Defendant's workforce at various Stores, including without limitation, the retail outlet located in West Nyack, New York; Hialeah, Florida; Jackson, Michigan; Atlanta, Georgia; Memphis, Tennessee; Sparks, Nevada; and at Defendant's corporate headquarters located in Richmond, Virginia.

49. The Plaintiff and each of the other members of the Class were discharged by the Defendant without cause on his or her part of or as the reasonably foreseeable result of the mass layoff ordered by the Defendant at the Stores and related Facilities.

50. The Plaintiff and each of the other members of the Class are an Aaffected employee@ of the Defendant within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 2101(a)(5).

51. The Defendant was required by the WARN Act to give the Plaintiff and each of the other members of the Class at least 60 days advance written notice of his or her termination.

52. The Defendant failed to give the Plaintiff and other members of the Class written notice that complied with the requirements of the WARN Act.

53. The Plaintiff and each of the other members of the Class are an "aggrieved employee" of the Defendant as that term is defined in 29 U.S.C. § 2104 (a)(7).

54. The Defendant failed to pay the Plaintiff and each of the other members of the Class their respective wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, accrued holiday pay and accrued vacation for 60 days following their respective terminations and failed to make the pension and 401(k) contributions and provide employee benefits under ERISA, other than health insurance, for 60 days from and after the dates of their respective terminations.

55. Since the Plaintiff and each of the other members of the Class seek back-pay attributable to a period of time after the filing of the Debtor's bankruptcy petition and which arose as the result of the Debtor's violation of a federal law, the Plaintiff's claim against the Debtor is entitled to post-petition Administrative Priority status pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 503(b)(1)(A).

56. As a result of Circuit City's violation of the WARN Act, Plaintiff and members of the Class have been damaged in amounts equal to the sum of: (a) their respective lost wages, salaries, commissions, bonuses, accrued holiday pay, accrued vacation pay, pension contributions and 401(k) contributions for sixty (60) calendar, (b) the health and medical insurance and other fringe benefits under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act ("ERISA") that they would have received or had the benefit of receiving, for a period of sixty

(60) calendar days after the date of their respective terminations, and (c) medical expenses incurred during such period by such persons that would have been covered and paid under Circuit City's employee benefit plans had that coverage continued for that period. A portion of said damages constitute and are entitled to priority status.

57. The relief sought in this proceeding is equitable in nature.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff and members of the Class he seeks to represent demand judgment against Defendant Circuit City, Inc., as follows:

- A. Certification of the Plaintiff Class herein;
- B. Appointment of the Plaintiff as representative of the Class;
- C. Appointment of undersigned counsel as Class Counsel.
- D. An allowed wage priority claim against Defendant equal to the sum of (i) unpaid wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, accrued holiday pay, accrued vacation pay and pension and 401(k) contributions for 60 working days, (ii) the benefit of health and medical insurance and other fringe benefits under ERISA for 60 calendar days, and (iii) any medical or other expenses incurred during the 60 calendar days since their respective terminations that would have been covered and paid under Circuit City's employee benefit plans has that coverage continued for that period, all determined in accordance with the WARN Act, 29. U.S.C. § 2104 (a) (1) (A), the first \$10,950.00 of which one entitled to priority status under 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(4).
- E. Interest as allowed by law on the amounts owed under the preceding paragraph.
- F. An allowed administrative priority claim for reasonable attorney's fees, expert

fees, and the costs and disbursements incurred in prosecuting this action, as authorized by the WARN Act, 29 U.S.C. § 2104 (a) (6); and

G. Such other and further relief as to this Court may seem just and proper.

Dated: July 8, 2009

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**Counsel for Plaintiff**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on the 8th day of July, 2009, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was electronically filed with the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond Division, using the CM/ECF system, which thereby caused the above to be served electronically on all registered users of the ECF system that have filed notices of appearance in this matter, and was mailed, by U.S. Mail, first class, postage paid, to all person appearing below:

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/s/ Gary E. Mason  
Gary E. Mason